

Companion Animal D.C., June 26, 2003

The following were in attendance:

Gale Barr, Poochez-N-Pals
Sarah Barr, Poochez-N-Pals
Lynda Brockert, Macomb K-9 Shadows
Lizzie Brockert, Macomb K-9 Shadows
Nancy Duemling, K-9 & Kompany
Sue Roscoe, Macomb K-9 Shadows
Breanna Duletzke, Creative Clovers
Tammy Duletzke, Creative Clovers
Anne Crotser, staff liaison

Anne called the meeting to order. The new structure with only 7 Developmental Committees was circulated as a “work in progress” and comments were invited. The presence of the words “cats and birds” under the description of the Companion Animal projects was noted with some levity.

Anne explained the reasons why Marilyn has decided not to convene the 4-H Council until next fall and concentrate on first getting all of the Developmental Committees up and running. The Brockerts and Nancy Duemling indicated an interest in representing the committee on the Council next fall. We also discussed the possibility of the three youth members of the committee sharing the job of representing us.

Anne explained the nature of the training that Julie Chapin will be offering on July 9th. Nancy Duemling indicated she planned on attending. Others said they would contact Roberta next week if they wanted to attend.

We discussed our scheduled meeting on July 24th and decided to cancel it because we had no pressing business items, no obvious program or draw, and everyone was gearing up for the Fair.

We did decide to hold our committee meetings on the first Thursday of the month, from 7-9 p.m., starting in September. We signed up a room for September 4th and discussed several possibilities for speakers. Tammy Duletzke is going to contact Andrea at Parkway Vet to see if she would speak on a topic of interest to both dog and pocket pet members. If she is receptive to the idea, Anne will make a formal invitation. Sue Roscoe suggested that Dorothy Murmyluk’s son-in-law might speak on behavioral issues.

Nancy Duemling brought up the issue of whether there are any standing rules about club size, involvement in meetings, participation in shows and activities, etc. that all dog clubs needed to follow. Anne said that only the Horse and Shooting Sports people, who have had operating councils in the past, had such regulations. She suggested that Nancy bring up the issue in the early fall and see if some rules could be put in place for next year. Instrumental in bringing up this issue was the continued absence of any members from Puppy Luvs Club.

Sue Roscoe asked if there was a “master list” of 4-H kids that included the non-club youth. She said that Heather Martin, who is doing the water project as a shared project, almost had her registration refused by the Fair officials. Anne said that she would look into the situation. Anne also mentioned that this is one reason Marilyn and the staff would like to have a Spring Achievement.

Nancy Duemling talked about the upcoming fun match fundraiser on July 19th at Rotary Park. Because of the bruhaha among some of the horse clubs, Nancy and her club are going to have to jump through Health Dept. hoops to be able to operate food concessions.

Gale Barr asked Nancy and Sue if they could help her club arrange for a knowledgeable individual to assist their members in improving their showmanship skills. Sue Roscoe said she would ask her daughter, and Nancy said some of the older members of her club could help. Heidi Schramm was also suggested.

At the close of the meeting there was a discussion about including all or some of the rabbit clubs in the Companion Animal Committee. Tammy Duletzke pointed out that there are two distinct groups now doing the rabbit project—suburban oriented clubs with youth who are showing a single rabbit which is being raised as a family pet, and rural oriented clubs whose youth are raising and showing several rabbits in a livestock setting. Anne suggested that she begin a discussion among the rabbit people and petition the 4-H Office to be included with Companion Animals if that was the will of a significant number.

Anne Crotser, Staff liaison